

## Media Release

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# New public housing model a win for City of Marion community

A celebratory event for Mitchell Park tenants whose properties are now being managed by Junction Australia, a South Australian -based not-for-profit, will be held on Wednesday, November 25.

About 200 tenants are expected to attend the event, which will recognise the early success of a new public housing model and the positive impact it has had on the community, including providing work for contractors in the City of Marion area.

The State Government announced in May that it would transfer the management of 608 houses in Mitchell Park to Junction Australia. The official handover occurred last month and is part of a wider State Government policy to shift the management of public houses to community organisations.

Junction Australia, a leading independent provider of housing and community services, will deliver the core services of tenant and asset management, as well as community engagement with access to leading national expertise. Mitchell Park tenants are being supported to access Commonwealth Rent Assistance they were previously ineligible for. This will result in a significant increase in rental revenue without tenants having to pay any more out of their own pockets.

City of Marion Mayor Kris Hanna will speak at the celebratory event, being held at the Mitchell Park Sports and Community Centre, and said the deal is a win for the community, Council and the local community.

“Tradies will benefit immensely from any future upgrades of the homes. The first few weeks have already demonstrated a positive impact on the community,” Mr Hanna said.

“In the first ten days of managing these Mitchell Park properties, Junction Australia addressed 67 maintenance issues. Twelve local contractors were involved in this work and materials were purchased locally.”

Junction Australia Chief Executive Graham Brown, who will also speak at the event, said it is a way to say thankyou to tenants for their patience and support during the transition and mark the beginning of an exciting new era.

“The move from public housing to community housing is a new approach in SA and Junction Australia is very pleased to be leading the way. Our aim is to provide safe, well maintained homes within a healthy, inclusive community for the residents of Mitchell Park,” Mr Brown said.

“We provide much more than just a roof over people’s heads. Junction Australia works closely with other community service providers and will be undertaking a range of community development



activities to help people engage with other community members.

“We have worked closely with our new tenants and look forward to celebrating our early achievements with them and discussing improvements that can be made in the future.”

Building strong neighbourhoods and empowering residents to work together is one of the six key themes of the City of Marion’s Community Plan 2040.

Wednesday’s celebratory event will include family activities, information stands by community service providers and a free barbecue.

Minister for Housing and Urban Development John Rau and Junction Australia’s General Manager of Housing and Urban Development Scott Langford and a tenant, who will speak about their experience of the transfer of housing management, will also attend the event.

*Junction Australia is a trusted provider of quality, affordable housing and integrated community services that currently manages 1,700 properties across South Australia. We firmly believe that by working together we can take steps that enable people to navigate their way from ‘Crisis to Connectedness’. Our clients are supported to overcome barriers, access opportunities and pursue their hopes and dreams.*

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